in Jharkhand, in which fifty coal miners lost their lives and four received reportable injury. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Report, action will be taken against the persons found responsible for the accident.

Coal miners of Bhatdih mines

116. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of death and injured coal miners of Bhatdih Mines, a mine reportedly under BCCL;

(b) the amount of compensation and employment provided to families of the deceased;

(c) the findings of enquiry into the accidents held;

(d) whether Government are considering to formulate a long term policy about underground mining;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Fifty workers lost their lives and four received reportable injury at Bhatdih Mine Disaster under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) occurred on 6-9-2006.

(b) The total amount of compensation paid to each dependent of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.87 lakhs to Rs. 11.06 lakh. This includes additional *ex-gratia* of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to each as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Coal and Rs. 1.00 lakh to each sanctioned by Chief Minister, Jharkhand. Besides an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has also been sanctioned.

Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen has already been given, while one lady depedent has opted for monetary compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years aand one under-aged male dependent has been kept in employment

roster and his mother has been given monetary compensation till he becomes major.

(c) A Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, *vide* Notification No. S.O. 1756(E) dated 12-10-06 to inquire into the cuases and circumstances of the accident occurred at Bhatdih Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months and the findings will be known after Court of Enquiry submits its report.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An exercise was taken up to address various issues ensuring sustainable coal development in a draft document named "Vision coal 2025" and recommend policy directions therein for meeting national objectives of the domestic coal sector.

The policy directions recommended are to increase production from underground coal mining. For this, the existing underground mines are to be reorganized to improve their productivity and safety. The bord and pillar technology used in mines should be mechanized by deploying Side Discharge Loaders/Load Hual Dumpers and Continuous Miners to improve production and productivity. Further, mechanized drilling is to be used in place of hand held drills presently in vogue. Smaller mines should be amalgamated into bigger units with fewer openings for achieving increased productivity. Small unprofitable mines with limited reserves and mines posing danger due to fire or waterlogged working in upper seams should be closed.

New underground mines have to be planned for higher capacity using either mechanized bord and piller operations, powered support longwall technology or continuous miners with appropriate hard roof management technologies, wherever required.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply given to parts (d) and (e) above.

Incurring low profits by MTNL

117. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MTNL is incurring very low profits as compared to previous year;